SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1   Project Objectives and Goals

…the majority of wetland replication projects undertaken in the Commonwealth do not meet the minimum performance standards in the regulations.

MA –DEP, Massachusetts Inland Wetland Replication Guidelines

Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.

Henry Ford

As stated in the *Massachusetts Inland Wetland Replication Guidelines*, many replication projects fail to meet performance standards simply because no replication area was ever built or because of problems related to design or construction (i.e. inadequate hydrology, poor planting plans, or replication areas built smaller than required). To proactively evaluate past wetland replication projects and improve the success rate of future replications, the Town of Franklin Conservation Commission was awarded grant funding in 2002 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct the *Franklin Wetland Replication Assessment Project*. The Town selected GeoSyntec Consultants, in cooperation with BSC Group, Inc., to conduct this project.

The primary goals of this project were:

1. To evaluate the successful establishment of replicated wetlands in the Town of Franklin in terms of wetland functions and values, species composition, soils, and hydrology.

2. To evaluate if replicated wetlands have been constructed in substantial compliance with approved plans and design specifications.

3. Based on the evaluations described above, to develop recommendations for future wetland replication design specifications and related protocols (i.e. construction oversight, post-project monitoring, etc.).

Square-stemmed Monkey Flower
(*Mimulus ringens*)

1.2   Acknowledgements

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